

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T STATE 144708

NODIS

FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOEING REPEAT WELLINGTON 2373 ACTION SECSTATE JUN 22

QUOTE S E C R E T WELLINGTON 2373

NODIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE FROM AMBASSADOR SELDEN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, NZ

SUBJECT: MULDOON VISIT TO U.S.

REF: (A) STATE 143882, (B) WELLINGTON 0981, (C) WELLINGTON 1442,
(D) STATE 097438

1. I ACCEPT AND UNDERSTAND FULLY PRESIDENT'S CONCERN
FOR REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO PRIME MINISTER MULDOON MADE
IN THE U.K. REGARDING PRESIDENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY
AND WILL CARRY OUT FULLY INSTRUCTIONS AS PER REFTEL A.
AT THE SAME TIME, I WANT TO BE CERTAIN THAT THE
DEPARTMENT AND WHITE HOUSE HAVE AS FULL AND ACCURATE A
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PICTURE FROM WELLINGTON AS IS POSSIBLE.

2. REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO MULDOON CONCERNING ADMINISTRA-
TION'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY, REPORTEDLY MADE BY PM IN
SCOTLAND, HAVE GONE WHOLLY UNREPORTED IN NEW ZEALAND.
IN VIEW OF PRESS AND OPPOSITION PARTY FUROR
RESULTING FROM PM'S EARLIER SYDNEY REMARKS ON INDIAN

OCEAN DEMILITARIZATION (WELLINGTON 0981) AND HIS SUBSEQUENT AUCKLAND SPEECH (WELLINGTON 1442), AND IN VIEW OF FACT PM HAD PRESS STAFF WITH HIM IN LONDON, I AM CERTAIN HAD PM WANTED TO MAKE CRITICISM OF HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY A MATTER OF HIGH PUBLIC ISSUE, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SIMPLE MATTER FOR HIS OFFICE TO HAVE ASSURED MAJOR PLAY IN NEW ZEALAND PRESS. THAT HAS NOT OCCURRED WHICH COULD INDICATE THAT PRIMIN MAY NOT HAVE BEEN AWARE REMARKS WOULD BE REPORTED.

3. I THINK IT INCUMBENT UPON ME, FURTHERMORE, TO RESPECTFULLY POINT OUT THAT WHILE MULDOON HAS UNDOUBTEDLY RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES NEGATIVE WASHINGTON FEEDBACK TO HIS SYDNEY AND AUCKLAND REMARKS, EMBASSY WELLINGTON HAS NEVER BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INDICATE ANY SPECIAL WASHINGTON SENSITIVITY ON THE MATTER. FYI: REFTEL D WAS RECEIVED DURING MY OFFICIAL SEMI-ANNUAL VISIT TO THE ISLAND GOVERNMENTS. MY DCM INFORMED THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, THROUGH THE ACTING SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AS INSTRUCTED, BUT DID NOT KNOW, NOR WAS HE INSTRUCTED TO ADVISE THEGNZ OF PARTICULAR WASHINGTON CONCERNS OR SENSITIVITIES LEADING UP TO MULDOON'S SEPTEMBER VISIT TO WASHINGTON. END FYI. INDEED, THE REACTION FROM THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN THAT PRESIDENT CARTER TAKES SCANT NOTICE OF SUCH CRITICISM AND IS MORE CONCERNED WITH EVOLUTION OF POLICIES WHICH WILL BE OF BENEFIT

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TO US, NEW ZEALAND AND ENTIRE FREE WORLD. WE HAVE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT ANY POTENTIAL DIFFERENCES WOULD BE CANDIDLY DISCUSSED BY PRESIDENT AND MULDOON IN SEPTEMBER AND COULD BE FRANKLY RESOLVED TO THEIR MUTUAL SATISFACTION. IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT, FURTHERMORE, THAT MULDOON CONSIDERS HIMSELF TO BE ALMOST "ONE OF THE FAMILY" WITH THE U.S. HE BELIEVES HIS CRITICISMS TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE RATHER THAN DESTRUCTIVE; HE BELIEVES "WESTERN" UNITY TO BE SACRED AND RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. ARE AT THE TOP OF HIS INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS.

4. IT IS MY BEST JUDGEMENT THAT THE REACTION OF MULDOON TO ADVICE THAT THE SEPTEMBER VISIT IS BEING POSTPONED WILL DAMAGE RELATIONS WITH HIM AND THUS THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND. MULDOON HAS BEEN - AND CONTINUES TO BE -- MUCH MORE PRO-U.S. THAN THE PREVIOUS LABOUR GOVERNMENT. THE LABOUR ALTERNATIVE TO MULDOON IS A PARTY WHOSE FOREIGN POLICY WILL LIKELY BE ONE OF NON-ALIGNMENT AND WHICH VOTED HAVILY AT ITS MAY ANNUAL PARTY CONFERENCE IN FAOVR OF NEW ZEALAND'S WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL MILITARY ALLIANCES WITH NUCLEAR POWER STATES. (READ:

ANZUS AND US.) I CAN THINK OF NO ACTION THAT WOULD HAVE GREATER NEGATIVE REPERCUSSIONS ON THE PRESENT NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT THAN WORD THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS ORDERED POSTPONEMENT OF THE MULDOON VISIT.

5. IN SUM: (A) MULDOON IS BY NATURE EXTREMELY CANDID AND OUTSPOKEN; (B) HE HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN BENEFIT OF OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION THAT HIS PREVIOUS REMARKS ABOUT ADMINISTRATIN'S POLICIES ARE CREATING NEGATIVE REACTION IN WASHINGTON; (C) PERHAPS UNIQUE AMONG AMERICA'S ALLIES, NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT (MULDOON, FOREIGN MINISTER TALBOYS OR OTHER SENIOR GNZ LEADERSHIP) HAS NOT YET HAD OPPORTUNITY FOR ONE SINGLE HEAD-TO-HEAD CONVERSATION WITH SENIOR CARTER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS AND THUS OPPORTUNITY TO VENEFIT
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FROM BRIEFINGS ON USG POLICY AND CANDID EXCHANGE OF CONCERNS; (D) MULDOON IS INTENSELY PRO-AMERICAN AND, IN MY JUDGEMENT, THE BEST BET ON NEW ZEALAND SCENE FOR CONTINUATION OF POLICIES WHICH ARE IN U.S. POLITICAL AND SECURITY INTERESTS; (E) MULDOON'S REACTION WILL BE HIGHLY NEGATIVE AND COULD RESULT IN STRAINED USG/GNZ RELATIONS.

6. IF THERE REMAINS ANY OPPORTUNITY AT ALL FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS OF THIS MATTER WITH SECRETARY, IT CONTINUES TO BE MY STRONG RECOMMENDATION THAT SECRETARY REVIEW RECORD WITH PRIMIN AT OECD AND REQUEST THAT MULDOON WITHHOLD FURTHER CRITICISMS PENDING HEAD-TO-HEAD TALKS WITH PRESIDENT IN SEPTEMBER. TO POSTPONE TRIP WILL SERIOUSLY UNDERCUT MULDOON'S INTERNATIONAL AND, MOST CRITICALLY, HIS DOMESTIC POSITION.

7. AS YOU MAY KNOW, I WILL BE PARTICIPATING WITH MULDOON IN DEDICATION OF NEW CHANCERY WITHIN HOUS OF HIS RETURN TO NEW ZEALAND. HIS WILLINGNESS TO DO THIS IS A STRONG, VISUAL INDICATION OF HIS FRIENDSHIP FOR THE U.S. AND YOU CAN APPRECIATE THAT IT WILL BE A DIFFICULT TIME IF HE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSTPONEMENT. CONSEQUENTLY, I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE BEING KEPT FULLY INFORMED OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS AND WOULD PARTICULARLY WELCOME INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW I SHOULD REACT TO OFFICIAL LEVEL AND PRESS INQUIRIES.
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